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## EPA to discuss Riverside pollution investigation

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Posted: 12:00 a.m. Monday, Dec. 9, 2013

BY [KELLI WYNN](#) - STAFF WRITER

**RIVERSIDE** – Environmental and health officials will discuss the findings of an Environmental Protection Agency investigation of vapor intrusion in the Valley Pike/Avondale Neighborhood during a Tuesday meeting.

The public meeting will be held 7 to 9 p.m. at Stebbins High School, 1900 Harshman Road, according to Steve Renninger, on-scene coordinator for the EPA's Region 5 in Cincinnati.



LOPEZ, STEVE (CMG-WESTPALM)

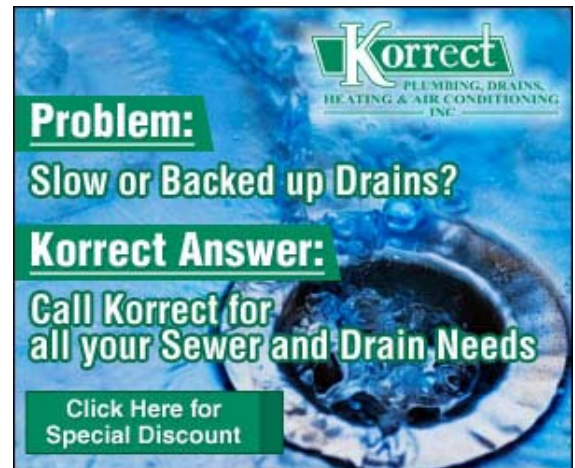
Vapor intrusion

request for additional sampling,” Renninger said of the purpose of the meeting.

“I would definitely categorize this as something that the residents of the (Valley Pike/Avondale) community need to take seriously and need to seriously consider working with the EPA to help mitigate any negative

Attendees can expect to hear from representatives of the U.S. EPA, Ohio EPA, Public Health-Dayton & Montgomery County, Ohio Department of Health and Riverside city officials.

“What we want to describe is a site condition, provide an update of sampling and



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effects that the EPA may find in their homes,” said Bryan Chodkowski, Riverside city manager.

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Those being targeted to attend the meeting live in the area bordered by Guernsey Dell Avenue, Minnesota Avenue, Hypathia Avenue, Rohrer Avenue and Valley Street. The EPA has sent meeting notifications to approximately 140 residential locations, according to Renninger.

Vapor intrusion occurs when underground pollutants give off dangerous gases that can rise up through the soil and seep into buildings through foundation cracks and holes, causing unsafe indoor air pollution, according to the U.S. EPA.

The EPA's investigation started last summer after agency officials conducted some groundwater sampling east of Hypathia Avenue, along Valley Street and discovered the presence of TCE (Trichloroethylene) and PCE (Tetrachloroethylene). This contamination is moving parallel to Valley Street, to the southwest.

Symptoms of breathing high levels of TCE and PCE include headaches, lung irritation, sleepiness, poor coordination and difficulty concentrating, nausea and in some cases, death.

“Historically, both chemicals have been used as solvents, degreasers on metals in metal shops and typical solvent use over the last 40 to 50 years,” Renninger said.

He added that the TCE and PCE plume likely came from an industrial or commercial facility located east of Hypathia Avenue.

EPA officials are not concerned with the drinking water in the area of where they want to do more sampling, but with the vapors. “What we’re concerned about is the migration of these vapors from the groundwater, 25 feet below the surface, upwards into occupied buildings in the neighborhood,” he said. “Specifically, along Hypathia, down to Pleasant Valley Avenue and potentially even to Rohrer Boulevard.”

EPA officials are asking the residents living in the area of focus if they will permit additional sampling in their homes in order to determine how much of these vapors have accumulated underneath their homes. “If the levels are above the established action levels from these local and state health departments, EPA will offer the installation of a mitigation system to vent these vapors and prevent them from entering the house,” Renninger said.

He added that the mitigation systems will be of no cost to the

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homeowner, but would cost the EPA approximately \$5,000 per system.

The initial sampling per residential location will cost the EPA approximately \$1,000.

The U.S. EPA has only sampled four houses to date. Three of the four home owners approached have accepted the mitigation systems, according to Renninger.

Details of the mitigation system will be discussed at Tuesday's meeting.

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